

PHIL 356 A01 - Spring 2022  
Philosophy of Science:  
Understanding Science as a Human Practice

Instructor: Eric Hochstein

CRN: 22417

Time: Tuesday/Wednesday/Friday from 1:20-2:40 pm

Place: COR A129

Office Hours (in Clearihue B330) 3:00-5:00 pm; and by appointment

Email: ehochstein@uvic.ca

Description: People often talk about science in the abstract as a single unified enterprise that operates independently of the scientists that engage

Important to Note: It is expected that students will prepare for and attend class regularly. Students are encouraged to consult the instructor with any problems or concerns about the course early in the semester.

Grading System:

Percentages	Letter Grade	Grade Point
90 – 100	A+	9
85 – 89	A	8
80 – 84	A-	7

An A+, A, or A- is earned by work which is technically superior, shows mastery of the subject matter, and in the case of an A+ offers original insight and/or goes beyond course expectations. Normally achieved by a minority of students

77 – 79	B+	6
73 – 76	B	5
70 – 72	B-	4

A B+, B, or B- is earned by work that indicates good comprehension of the course material, a good command of the skills needed to work with the course material, and the student's full engagement with the course requirements and activities. A B+ represents a more complex understanding and/or application of the course material.

65 – 69	C+	3
<del>60 – 64</del>	<del>C</del>	<del>2</del>

A C+ or C is earned by work that indicates an adequate

Interpretation of these grade definitions is up to the discretion of the instructor. If you receive a grade during the course that you believe is unfair, please begin by discussing the matter with the instructor (or TA) in a respectful, open manner. Rest assured that if you still believe the grade you received is unfair you can appeal the matter to the chair of the department.

For additional information regarding grades, please see the most recent (September 2021) edition of the Uvic Undergraduate Calendar.

All evaluations of tests and assignments will be calculated according to percentage scores. Letter grades and grade point scores are listed purely for reference.

Final examinations are the property of Uvic and are not returned. They are available for viewing at the Records Office according to Uvic procedures and regulations.

Uvic is committed to providing a safe, supportive learning environment for all members. Further information regarding Uvic policies on human rights, equity, discrimination and harassment are located in [Uvic Undergraduate Calendar](#).

Week 5 (Feb 8, Feb 9 & Feb 11): Science and Human Limitations

First Term Paper assigned Feb 8th

Readings:

- x Potochnik, A.(2015). "The Diverse Aims of Science". Studies in History and Philosophy of Science.

Week 6 (Feb 15, Feb 16 & Feb 18): Can Science Truly be Objective?

Mid-term 1, Feb 18.

Readings:

- x Douglas, Heather "The Irreducible Complexity of Objectivity"

Week 7 (Feb 22, Feb 23 & Feb 25): Reading Week

No Classes

Week 8 (Mar 1, Mar 2 & Mar 4): Values and Science

First Term Paper Due March 1st

Second Term Paper Assigned March 4th  
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